

**Amendments to the Claims**

Applicant hereby withdraws claim 17 from further consideration. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A process for the production of DTPA-bis(anhydride) *characterized in that* DTPA is reacted with acetic anhydride in pyridine under elevated temperature and that the molar amount of pyridine is equal to or less than 6 times the molar amount of DTPA.
2. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is equal to or less than 3 times the molar amount of DTPA.
3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is equal to or less than 1 time the molar amount of DTPA.
4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is at least 0.5 times the molar amount of DTPA.
5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is approximately the same as the molar amount of DTPA.
6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is in excess of the molar amount of DTPA.
7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 7 times the molar amount of DTPA.
8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 5 times the molar amount of DTPA.

9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 3 times the molar amount of DTPA.

10. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 2 times the molar amount of DTPA.

11. (Previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is about 3 times the molar amount of DTPA.

12. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is about 3 times the molar amount of DTPA and the amount of pyridine is approximately the same as the molar amount of DTPA.

13. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction temperature is above 65°C.

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction temperature is above 70°C.

15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction temperature is at 80°C or above.

16. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is about 3 times the molar amount of DTPA, the amount of pyridine is approximately the same as the molar amount of DTPA and wherein the reaction temperature is approximately 80°C.

17. (Withdrawn)